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DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT SECURITY
24 MASON STREET
PROVIDENCE, R. I.
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JOHN S. RENZA
DIRECTOR

EMPLOYMENT BULLETIN

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
EDWARD D. DI PRETE
GOVERNOR

VOLUME 34 January 1988 No. 1

RHODE ISLAND EMPLOYMENT DECLINES TO 454,600 IN DECEMBER

Overall Rhode Island establishment employment decreased in December as pre-holiday gains in Wholesale and Retail Trade were more than offset by seasonal reductions in the Manufacturing, Construction and Service sectors of the state's economy, reported John S. Renza, Director of the Rhode Island Department of Employment Security.

According to preliminary estimates prepared by the Department of Employment Security, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics, Rhode Island employment totalled 454,600 in December. While this figure represents a decrease of 1,800 from the November level of 456,400, it is 2,400 above the December 1986 total of 452,200.

MANUFACTURING

Total factory employment in Rhode Island declined by 1,700 from November to December. Furthermore, the current job level of 119,800 is 900 less than the year ago figure of 120,700. In the Durable Goods category, the December employment total of 82,200 was down 1,400 from the prior month and decreased 700 compared to the figure reported a year ago. Employment in the Nondurable Goods producing industries fell 300 in the November-December period to a level of 37,600, which was 200 below the December 1986 total.

Within the Durable Goods category, the largest monthly job decrease (-700) occurred in Jewelry-Silverware, followed by a drop of 200 in Fabricated Metals. In addition, monthly employment declines of 100 each were registered in Lumber/Furniture, Nonelectrical Machinery, Electrical Machinery, Instruments and

(Continued on Page 4)

GOOD NEWS FOR R.I. EMPLOYERS! LOWER UNEMPLOYMENT TAXES IN '88

Rhode Island employers will save an estimated $19 million in Unemployment Insurance taxes in 1988 as a result of legislation passed last year which reduced Employment Security Fund reserve requirements for each of the nine possible Tax Schedules and the increased amount of E.S. Fund reserves which have accumulated due to the continued strength of the Rhode Island economy.

DES determines the specific Tax Schedule to be followed each year according to the financial condition of the E.S. Fund as of September 30 of the preceding year. Unemployment insurance benefits are paid out of this Fund.

Tax Schedule G, with individual employer rates ranging between 1.8 percent and 7.8 percent will be in effect in 1988, the first year since 1971 that a tax schedule lower than the maximum allowed by law will be in effect. In 1987 R.I. employers paid taxes according to Schedule I with rates that ranged between 2.3 and 8.4 percent.

The payroll tax for new employers - those who have not been subject to the Employment Security Act for three full experience years - will be 2.9 percent in 1988.

R.I. employers will be notified of their individual tax rates prior to April 1.

$$$

JOB SERVICE

RHODE ISLAND JOB SERVICE OFFICES

BRISTOL COUNTY, 470 Metacom Ave. 245-9300
EAST PROVIDENCE, 877 Broadway 277-3546
NEWPORT COUNTY, 73 Valley Road
Middletown 847-3680
PAWTUCKET, 109 Main St. 722-7500
PROVIDENCE, 130 West Exchange St.
Jewelry 277-3553
Manufacturing & Construction 277-3556
Professional & Clerical 277-3584
Temporary Help 277-3559
WAKEFIELD, Oliver Stedman Gov't. Center
Tower Hill Road 789-9721
WARWICK, 50 Airport Road. 737-7550
WESTERLY, 57 Spruce Street. 596-2814
WEST WARWICK, 1330 Main St.. 828-6134
WOONSOCKET, 217 Pond St.. 762-9010

OTHER JOB SERVICE TELEPHONE NUMBERS

JOB BANK 277-3588
or. . . . . .Enterprise 2265
TJTC Information. 277-3726
TJTC Job Orders. 277-3588
Employer Relations Unit. 277-3458
Jobs for Rhode Island Graduates 277-6813
CALL-A-TEEN. . . . .Call your local Job Service Office
Project STEADY. 277-6813

EMPLOYMENT SERVICE ACTIVITIES

	Dec. 1987	Nov. 1987	Dec. 1986
Total Placements	667	678	738
New Applications	1,993	2,032	2,610
New Openings Rec'd.	862	1,257	1,389

EMPLOYMENT SECURITY ACTIVITIES

	Dec. 1987	Nov. 1987	% Change Nov. 1987
Initial Claims	16,343	5,418	+ 201.6
No. of Payments	36,414	26,147	+ 39.3
Amt. of Payments	$ 5,423,906	$ 3,827,761	+ 41.7
Exhaustions	662	620	+ 6.8

TEMPORARY DISABILITY INSURANCE ACTIVITIES

	Dec. 1987	Nov. 1987	Dec. 1986
Initial Claims	3,313	2,824	3,145
No. of Payments	26,213	25,997	28,411
Amt. of Payments	$ 4,253,292	$ 4,217,670	$ 4,274,366

RHODE ISLAND
Labor Force-Unemployment Estimates
(In thousands)

	Dec. 1987	Nov. 1987	Dec. 1986
Civilian Labor Force	531.2	530.4	519.6
Unemployment	18.8	16.4	19.5
Rate (Unadjusted)	3.5	3.1	3.8
Seas. Adjusted Rate	3.7	3.6	3.8

PROVIDENCE
Primary Metropolitan Statistical Area
Labor Force-Unemployment Estimates
(In thousands)

	Nov. 1987	Oct. 1987	Nov. 1986
Civilian Labor Force	345.0	341.0	339.9
Unemployment	10.2	9.8	11.0
Rate (Unadjusted)	3.0	2.9	3.2

PAWTUCKET-WOONSOCKET-ATTLEBORO
Primary Metropolitan Statistical Area
Labor Force-Unemployment Estimates
(In thousands)

	Nov. 1987	Oct. 1987	Nov. 1986
Civilian Labor Force	170.2	169.4	166.4
Unemployment	5.6	5.7	6.7
Rate (Unadjusted)	3.3	3.4	4.0

NEWPORT Labor Area
Labor Force-Unemployment Estimates

	Nov. 1987	Oct. 1987	Nov. 1986
Civilian Labor Force	35,660	35,660	34,600
Unemployment	865	815	1,050
Rate (Unadjusted)	2.4	2.3	3.0

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE INSURED UNEMPLOYED
NOVEMBER 16-20, 1987

Sex and Age	Number	Percent
Total	7,768	100.0
Men	4,183	53.8
Under 45	2,703	64.6
45 and over	1,480	35.4
Women	3,585	46.2
Under 45	1,972	55.0
45 and Over	1,613	45.0
Industry Attachment		
Contract Construction	836	10.8
Manufactruing	3,316	42.6
Public Utilities	344	4.4
Wholesale and Retail	1,210	15.6
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	359	4.6
Service	1,449	18.7
All Other	254	3.3
Occupational Skills		
Prof., Tech. and Managerial	1,464	18.9
Clerical and Sales	1,494	19.2
Service	702	9.0
Fishery, Forestry & Rel. Occ.	105	1.4
Processing	269	3.5
Machine Trades	687	8.8
Bench Work	1,315	16.9
Structural Work	837	10.8
Miscellaneous	777	10.0
INA	118	1.5

TOTAL ESTABLISHMENT EMPLOYMENT IN RHODE ISLAND

	EMPLOYMENT IN THOUSANDS			NET CHANGE FROM	
	Dec. 1987	Nove. 1987	Dec. 1986	Nov. 1987	Dec. 1986
TOTAL EMPLOYMENT *	454.6	456.4	452.2	- 1,800	+ 2,400
MANUFACTURING	119.8	121.5	120.7	- 1,700	- 900
NONMANUFACTURING	334.8	334.9	331.5	- 100	+ 3,300
CONTRACT CONSTRUCTION	18.6	19.2	17.6	- 600	+ 1,000
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES	15.1	15.2	14.8	- 100	+ 300
TRADE (Wholesale & Retail)	104.3	102.9	102.8	+ 1,400	+ 1,500
FINANCE, INSURANCE & REAL ESTATE	25.6	25.5	25.1	+ 100	+ 500
SERVICE (Miscellaneous)	112.9	113.7	112.2	- 800	+ 700
GOVERNMENT (Federal, State & Local)	58.3	58.4	59.0	- 100	- 700

1987 Figures are PRELIMINARY. 1986 Figures are REVISED. Estimates are for Pay Period which includes the 12th of the month.

Compiled by THE DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT SECURITY in cooperation with the U.S. BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS.

* Farmers, Self-employed, Domestic and Armed Services personnel are excluded.
** Labor Dispute

ESTABLISHMENT EMPLOYMENT, EARNINGS AND HOURS IN MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES IN R.I.

	EMPLOYMENT					PRODUCTION-WORKER AVERAGES					
	In Thousands			Net Change From		Weekly Earnings		Weekly Hours		Hourly Earnings	
INDUSTRY GROUP	Dec. 1987	Nov. 1987	Dec. 1986	Nov. 1987	Dec. 1986	Dec. 1987	Dec. 1986	Dec. 1987	Dec. 1986	Dec. 1987	Dec. 1986
ALL MANUFACTURING	119.8	121.5	120.7	- 1700	- 900	335.16	328.03	39.9	40.8	8.40	8.04
DURABLE GOODS	82.2	83.6	82.9	- 1400	- 700	333.23	325.18	40.1	40.8	8.31	7.97
LUMBER/FURNITURE	3.3	3.4	3.3	- 100	-	390.26	380.78	40.4	40.9	9.66	9.31
STONE-CLAY-GLASS	1.7	1.7	1.7	-	-	425.54	421.17	40.8	41.7	10.43	10.10
PRIMARY METALS	5.4	5.4	5.5	-	- 100	402.06	402.69	42.1	43.3	9.55	9.30
FABRICATED METALS	9.8	10.0	10.0	- 200	- 200	325.98	301.04	39.9	40.3	8.17	7.47
NONELECTRIC MACH.	6.1	6.2*	5.9*	- 100	+200	447.45	445.31	42.9	44.8	10.43	9.94
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY	12.0	12.1	12.2	- 100	- 200	308.40	301.60	40.0	40.0	7.71	7.54
TRANSPORTATION EQUIP.	9.4	9.4	9.4	-	-	444.98	427.58	40.6	40.8	10.96	10.48
INSTRUMENTS	4.9*	5.0*	4.9*	- 100	-	341.14	344.16	41.4	43.4	8.24	7.93
JEWELRY-SILVERWARE	23.9	24.6	24.2	- 700	- 300	265.07	261.81	39.8	41.1	6.66	6.37
MISCELLANEOUS MFG.	5.7	5.8	5.8	- 100	- 100	249.84	241.84	34.7	35.1	7.20	6.89
NONDURABLE GOODS	37.6	37.9	37.8	- 300	- 200	340.16	332.51	39.6	40.6	8.59	8.19
FOOD-BEVERAGE	3.4	3.4	3.4	-	-	298.15	270.05	36.9	37.3	8.08	7.24
TEXTILES	10.3	10.4	10.3	- 100	-	310.64	307.97	40.5	41.9	7.67	7.35
APPAREL	2.9	3.0	3.0	- 100	- 100	297.91	289.58	41.9	42.9	7.11	6.75
PAPER PRODUCTS	2.4	2.5	2.5	- 100	- 100	327.96	295.51	42.1	41.1	7.79	7.19
PRINTING-PUBLISHING	6.8	6.9	6.8	- 100	-	441.91	418.47	37.9	37.7	11.66	11.10
CHEMICAL PRODUCTS	3.0	3.0	3.1	-	- 100	438.36	434.25	40.3	41.2	10.88	10.54
RUBBER PRODUCTS	1.3	1.3	1.3	-	-	335.41	337.01	39.6	41.3	8.47	8.16.
PLASTICS PRODUCTS	5.1	5.1	5.1	-	-	341.25	338.62	39.0	41.6	8.75	8.14
LEATHER PRODUCTS	2.4	2.3	2.3	+ 100	+100	230.65	232.43	38.7	39.8	5.96	5.84

1986 Figures REVISED. 1987 Figures are PRELIMINARY. Estimates are for pay period which includes the 12th of the month.

Compiled by THE DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT SECURITY in cooperation with the U.S. BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS.

* Labor Dispute

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RHODE ISLAND
EMPLOYMENT
BULLETIN

DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT SECURITY
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(Continued from Page 1)

the Miscellaneous Manufacturing segment. The remaining Durable Goods industries were unchanged from their November payroll levels. On an annual basis, the sole increase (+200) in the Durable Goods category was posted in Nonelectrical Machinery. For the twelve month period, decreases were recorded in Jewelry-Silverware (-300), Fabricated Metals (-200), Electrical Machinery (-200), Primary Metals (-100) and the Miscellaneous Manufacturing segment (-100). Employment in the remaining Durable Goods industries showed no change from December 1986.

Among the Nondurable Goods producing industries, a monthly job increase (+100) in Leather Products was overshadowed by declines of 100 each in Textiles, Apparel, Paper Products and Printing-Publishing. Employment in the remaining Nondurable Goods industries was unchanged from last month. Compared to a year ago, jobs in Leather Products were up 100, while downturns of 100 each were reported in Apparel, Paper Products and Chemical Products. Employment levels in the five remaining Nondurable Goods categories were stable for the twelve month period.

NONMANUFACTURING

Overall employment in Rhode Island's Nonmanufacturing establishments fell 100 in the November-December period as seasonal decreases in Services and Construction offset pre-holiday hiring in the Trade sector. However, the December Nonmanufacturing total of 334,800 is 3,300 jobs above the year earlier level of 331,500.

Within the Nonmanufacturing sector, Wholesale and Retail Trade employment reflected continued holiday activity, as 1,400 more workers were added in December. At 104,300, this segment was up 1,500 from the same month a year ago. Payroll levels in Finance, Insurance and Real Estate, at 25,600, showed a monthly gain of 100 and an annual increase of 500. Services employment, at 112,900, and Contract Construction, at 18,600, reported monthly declines of 800 and 600, respectively. Nevertheless, the former was up 700 while the latter advanced by 1,000 compared to December 1986. Overall Government employment decreased by 100 last month to the current level of 58,300, which represents a downturn of 700 from the figure recorded a year ago. Although Transportation and Public Utilities jobs were down 100 for the month, the December employment total of 15,100 is 300 above the year ago level.

HOURS AND EARNINGS

Average hourly earnings for Rhode Island's production workers increased by 5 cents to $8.40 in mid-December. This represents a gain of 36 cents compared to one year ago. The average work week increased by 0.4 of an hour in December to 39.9 hours, but was 0.9 of an hour less than the figure reported a year ago. Average weekly earnings for these workers in December amounted to $355.16, which represents an increase of $5.33 from last month, and a gain of $7.13 from December of last year.

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